United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.58

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 March 2010

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
26 May-4 June 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation	2
2.	Children of a Better Time	4
3.	Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society	7
4.	Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana	9
5.	International Federation of Women in Legal Careers	10
6.	Kerala Rural Development Agency	11
7.	Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados	13

10-28857 (E) 210510

Please recycle

1. Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation was established in 1990 at the First Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North. The Association works to protect the human rights and legal interests of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia, as a means of addressing social and economic problems, environmental and health issues, and cultural development and education issues. The Association is working to ensure rights to land use and resources, and to self-government according to international legal standards. The Association is actively participating in the development and implementation of a federal programme on the economic and social development of indigenous peoples. In cooperation with the Parliament (State Duma) and the Government of the Russian Federation, the Association is working towards legislation on indigenous living conditions and economy. The Association comprises more than 270,000 individual indigenous members, organized into 34 regional chapters. Being the only umbrella organization representing 40 indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation, the Association believes it is important to have an opportunity to play an effective role in the decision-making process, which ultimately will affect the lives and situations of not only indigenous peoples but also Russian society as a whole. The Association is involved in international activities and negotiations, and is a permanent participant in the Arctic Council. The Association regularly takes part in sessions of United Nations bodies on indigenous issues, human rights and sustainable development, and holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Association became a laureate of the Global 500 Roll of Honour of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1999.

II. Contributions to the work of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, human rights programmes and country offices

2005: (a) arranged, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, an international round table on indigenous peoples and the United Nations system; (b) participated in the eleventh session of the open-ended intersessional working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; and (c) released publications on United Nations specialized agencies and indigenous peoples and on international law and standards for human rights, sustainable development and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

2006: (a) in a partnership with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, hosted an international seminar on strengthening the role of indigenous peoples of the North in the activities of the Permanent Forum; (b) obtained accreditation to the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual

Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization and attended its ninth session; (c) attended the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as co-sponsor of some side events with the Russian Government; (d) took part in the first session of the Human Rights Council to promote the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (e) participated in the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; (f) arranged a round table on the ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 by the Russian Federation; (g) in partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, hosted a meeting of international experts to develop content for the report on the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

2007: (a) worked on the publication of reports on indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories and natural resources, and on the Millennium Development Goals; (b) attended the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (24th GC/GMEF) and VIII Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF); (c) hosted an international seminar for experts of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on indigenous peoples and private sector; (d) attended the sixty-first session of the General Assembly to lobby for the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (e) Convention on Biological Diversity actively involved in the fifth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions, and of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on access and benefit-sharing; (f) contributed to a report on nomadic peoples at the International Conference on Education.

2008: (a) contributed to the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages; (b) submitted a parallel report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; (c) submitted a parallel report to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review mechanism; (d) attended the first session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Human Rights Council; (e) partnered with the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to host an international conference on cooperation between the United Nations system and the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East; (f) jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted an international seminar on indigenous peoples and industrial companies.

2. Children of a Better Time

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization

Children of a Better Time is an international non-governmental non-profit organization concerned with the severe global public health problems affecting children. Its purpose is to further the health, well-being and quality of life of children worldwide through intergenerational, gender-oriented public health research, the dissemination of knowledge and the funding of projects. The Convention on the Rights of the Child serves as the primary guiding principle for the organization's health policy research and programmes.

Focus of activities 2005-2008

While Children of a Better Time continues to address a broad range of issues, the Millennium Development Goals have become a strong focus of its activities during this reporting period. In particular, Goal 5, to improve maternal health, and Goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women, have been important. In focusing its activities this way, Children of a Better Time is able to emphasize an intergenerational approach to the health and well-being of children and youth, and the interdependency between the areas of health and human rights.

Strengthening of academic collaboration

Cooperation with academic institutions and the use of scientific methodology were further underscored as foundations for programme design, field operations and advocacy in addressing the plight of vulnerable children, especially girl children. The organization appointed a scientific adviser to further expand its work in this area. Children of a Better Time collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and expects to develop an even closer cooperation with this United Nations specialized agency. It has also consolidated its cooperation with other international academic institutions to further its education and advocacy programme concerning children's participation.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Children of a Better Time closely follows all United Nations events pertaining to its mandate. This has come to play an increasingly important role as the research and programme activities of Children of a Better Time are closely linked to the issues of primary concern established in the Millennium Development Goals.

Since obtaining special consultative status, Children of a Better Time has been represented at one major United Nations event: the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". Its participation was an important platform for local and international engagement to improve the health and living conditions of the girl child, especially in low-income countries with very high maternal, prenatal, neonatal and infant mortality rates. Children of a Better Time has been keeping abreast of the follow-up discussions to the fourth World Conference on Women, the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the implementation of the resolutions related to the World Summit for Children. Its ongoing programme activities to improve the situation of the girl child relate directly to the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This strong focus of activities on the health and well-being of the girl child has become closely linked to international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the twenty-first century.

During the reporting period, Children of a Better Time was engaged in thematic areas closely pertaining to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations. In order to further exchange knowledge and experiences with the international community, plans will soon be expedited to undertake special activities (i.e., lobbying, publishing, organization of non-governmental organization meetings and side events) within the scope of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In conducting and planning research in the field, Children of a Better Time has worked with WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals were a strong focus of both research and programme activities during the reporting period. Children of a Better Time became involved in these activities in light of the prevailing high risk of maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia and the slow progress made in saving mothers' lives.

Children of a Better Time undertook the following activities in the context of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 5, target 1: (a) based on its intergenerational, gender-oriented research on the vulnerability of children to severe public health problems, the organization launched a pilot research programme in Yemen on mothers, daughters and pregnancy outcome, targeting young women below the age of 18 in particular; it also conducted a sub-study on male children and the relationship between high maternal mortality rates and domestic violence and ill-treatment of women; and concluded that skilled health workers at delivery were key to improving outcomes; and (b) Children of a Better Time conducted research into women's health care and maternal health-care services and staff training programmes, focusing in particular

on the relationship between the well-being of the mother and that of the child. Steps have been taken to initiate research in the Horn of Africa to investigate harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, particularly girl children.

Goal 3: (a) a research study was conducted in Yemen on the empowerment of women and young girls in relation to perceived victimization and their own views on the possibility of change; (b) education and advocacy in Yemen, through an educational programme for the health sector, planned with national and international organizations and some specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Goal 2: international education and advocacy, through an initiative with the Public Health Sciences Department of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, which aims to present ongoing and completed research of importance for children and young people and to teach methodologies for conducting research for and with children and young people. Participation of the girl child has been emphasized. Through this initiative, cooperation was extended to include several universities in Sweden and steps were taken to extend this collaboration internationally (primarily in the European Union).

3. Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works in the area of social action and development. Its mission is to defend and promote individual and collective social, socio-environmental, sexual and reproductive rights, contribute to the social development and improvement of health and extend the access to services and products. The organization's work is based on defending human rights, promoting education and providing assistance in ensuring sexual and reproductive health, in collaboration with governmental bodies and organized sectors of civil society. Established in 1965, it develops partnerships with both the public and the private sectors. Its mission includes the objectives of gender equality, the increased role of youth and the reduction of all forms of violence against women. It also works to promote health and to protect the environment, as part of its efforts to enhance the well-being of people and organizations. The organization values excellence, transparency, innovation, responsibility and commitment to the local culture.

Present in more than 1,000 cities throughout Brazil, as well as in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society comprises several social action units, health clinics, youth centres and distribution centres, among other areas.

With its infrastructure and professional staff, the organization uses efficient and easily transferable methodologies to offer quality services related to social action, advocacy, information and education; to conduct demographic and social research; operate medical clinics and laboratories; and provide condoms to the public. During the reporting period, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society provided services mainly to the low-income population, and to women within that group.

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society also works to strengthen commitments to human rights in the social, economic and political spheres. It is also active in South-South cooperation initiatives and strategically chooses to develop partnerships that have a positive impact and that contribute to sustainable growth and social development. As a member of the International Council on Management of Population Programmes, it contributes to population and development programmes focused on advocacy, innovation and the strengthening of civil society organizations. In the partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, it continues to support capacity-building efforts benefiting Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Latin America.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society participated in a number of United Nations events including sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, a meeting of the non-governmental organizations Committee on Youth and various forums and events related to the Millennium Development Goals, to HIV/AIDS and to ending poverty and hunger.

B. Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2004 and 2005, in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and supported by UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society organized several workshops aimed at promoting dialogue and consensus between different stakeholders to analyse challenges, especially those related to health, in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Government, legislative and civil society representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in the events, which culminated in a regional commitment on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

C. Other activities

Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society, in cooperation with various United Nations entities, was involved in a study on the acceptability of condom use, education and learning programmes, and youth services and HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives.

4. Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana: (a) inspires, promotes and encourages voluntary work for, and solidarity with, those in need in the Valencian community; (b) promotes the values of solidarity and voluntary work among the general public; (c) provides volunteer training to encourage inter-association cooperation; (d) provides non-governmental organizations with resources, working with the community and the business sector in particular, to promote corporate social responsibility; (e) conducts research and issues publications; and (f) promotes Corporate Citizenship.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization attended the Economic and Social Council Innovation Fair, held during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2009 of the Council, to explain its volunteer programme and its efforts to address emergency public health situations.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization is a member of the European Volunteer Centre and works with the Centre's Board of Directors.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the Valencia region, as follows:

Goal 8, target 5: in cooperation with the private sector, it gave computers to some 100 non-governmental organizations, thereby making available the benefits of new technologies, in particular information and communications technology.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The organization adopted the 10 principles of the Global Compact and consolidated its work to promote the principles to young people. In addition, it observes International Volunteer Day.

5. International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

Special, 1961

I. Introduction

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers was founded in Paris in 1928. According to article 2 of its by-laws, its activities are inspired by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Federation aims to: (a) promote and raise awareness of the fundamental principles mentioned above; (b) encourage and help its members in their activities with parliaments, Governments, or any other competent authority, and with the public in order to ensure that these principles are embodied in national legislation and applied in the judicial system; (c) compile information about the legal, social and economic status of women around the world and study all laws affecting that status; (d) promote friendship and unity among Federation members and with other international women's organizations and international jurists associations; and (e) contribute to the promotion of peace in the world. Its main course of action is to promote the human rights of women. The Federation holds its congress and general assembly every three years. The Federation Council meets once a year and is composed of three representatives of each national association. The Board, elected by the Council, meets twice a year. Whenever those meetings take place, the Federation organizes seminars and conferences, open to any jurist, where relevant issues are discussed. Federation affiliates include 35 national associations and 36 individual members. It is funded solely through the dues paid by its members.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the Federation participated in all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, presenting statements and organizing side events, at which participants discussed subjects related to the Millennium Development Goals from a legal and gender-based point of view. During the reporting period, the Federation also attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, meetings between non-governmental organizations and UNESCO and meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others. The Federation is represented in a number of United Nations agencies, offices and subsidiary bodies.

The Federation joined UNIFEM "Say NO to Violence against Women" campaign and asked its members to support and publicize the campaign. The Federation posts all important documents and publications released by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on its website. During the reporting period, Federation members observed International Women's Day, the World Day for International Justice and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The human rights handbook of the United Nations was distributed to all national associations and individual members. During the reporting period, the Federation studied two general themes: equality as a fundamental right and women, war and law.

6. Kerala Rural Development Agency

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Kerala Rural Development Agency, a non-governmental organization, has been working in the field of community development and research since 1985. The Agency has been implementing various programmes with the support of national and international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ILO and Oxfam, and of various agencies and departments of the central and state Governments. It was one of the first non-governmental organizations to collaborate in the implementation of watershed programmes in five villages covering around 2,500 farmers in India. The Agency has a committed team of professionals working to implement programmes from the grass-roots level. It is well-established, well-managed and enjoys good credibility, combining professional excellence with social commitment to realize its objective of social change. The Agency believes that sustainable human development occurs only through unity among people as a community and, therefore, it takes a collective approach to its work, seeking collective solutions that will benefit all. Its mission is to uplift those in need and in distress to make them productive and respectful members of society by enhancing their potential.

The Agency has four administrative offices in different parts of the region and a centre for the collective production of ethnic crafts. It has increased its staff to 55, thereby enabling it to expand its activities to include new areas and address new social needs. From 2006 to 2009, the Agency's budget covered various humanitarian and welfare-related activities, as well as research and development projects.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Agency did not participate in any major conferences or United Nations meetings during the reporting period as its efforts were focused mainly on the planning and implementation of programmes related to the Asian Tsunami and other programmes with governmental, non-governmental and United Nations bodies in the Asian region. The Agency is concerned about the scarcity of untied funds to cover travel and other expenses related to international meetings, but hopes that this issue will be addressed in the future.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Agency worked with UNDP on recovery and reconstruction programmes after the Asian Tsunami in 2004, and with the United Nations Team for Tsunami

Recovery Support and ILO in implementing an alternative livelihood programme for tsunami-affected communities in the coastal areas of the Asian region.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: (a) livelihood assistance for the communities affected by the Asian Tsunami; (b) nutritional support for children in coastal regions; (c) livelihood assistance for farmers in the Western Ghats region; and (d) nutritional care and support for rural artisans.

Goal 2: (a) continuing education programme for rural women; (b) adult education programmes in coastal communities; and (c) artisan schooling programme.

Goal 3: (a) gender budgeting programme for rural women; (b) gender health clinic; (c) gender-related studies; and (d) skill- and capacity-building programmes for women artisans.

Goal 4: (a) post-natal care and support programme for sex workers; (b) community crèche programme; (c) community care and support programme for single mothers.

Goal 5: (a) mothers' clinic in backward rural areas.

Goal 6: (a) behavioural change communication programme; (b) condom promotion programme; (c) sexually transmitted infections management care for communities; (d) care and support for people living with HIV in the Asian region; and (e) advocacy and networking among civil society organizations.

Goal 7: (a) community pandanus planting; (b) natural resource management programme in the Western Ghats region; (c) rainwater harvesting programme in the Western Ghats region; (d) protection of natural bodies of water; and (e) community wells programme in rural villages.

Goal 8: (a) association with Oxfam in a tsunami rehabilitation programme; and (b) work with an Indian sociocultural organization in Switzerland to provide livelihood assistance for widows.

D. Activities in support of global principles

The Agency did not participate in the work of ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies, or in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it was completely involved in disaster mitigation and rehabilitation initiatives related to the Asian Tsunami. It was partnered with UNDP, Oxfam, the United Nations Team for Tsunami Recovery Support, ILO and the Asian Development Bank in tsunami recovery and reconstruction programmes, which will be concluded only by December 2010. The Agency organized regional programmes in Asia during the reporting period. These programmes included events marking United Nations Day, World AIDS Day, World Environment Day and International Women's Day.

7. Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados

General, 1985

I. Introduction

The Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados is an independent network of bar associations founded in 1976. It works to ensure the defence of human rights and the rights of citizens and vulnerable groups. The participation of civil society in efforts to strengthen Latin American democracies has been particularly promoted by Spain, which currently acts as the secretariat and holds the presidency of the organization. The structure of the organization has enabled it to work efficiently and have a permanent presence. From the outset, the organization has sought to coordinate its work with that of local institutions to institutionalize procedures, ensure the transfer and exchange of knowledge and support the formulation of public policy.

The objectives of the organization are to: (a) promote and ensure that members of the legal profession honour the values of dignity, independence and freedom in the exercise of justice; (b) support training initiatives; technical preparation; (c) promote cooperation among professional associations; (d) support the development of common standards in the legal profession, including for accreditation; (e) promote the development of legal science; and (f) contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations.

The organization plans to participate in a number of meetings and conferences and will also be holding its own seminars and courses.

The organization has been active in the establishment of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia.

In the area of migration, the organization has contributed to the development of a database of applicable laws, collaborated on initiatives related to the rights of migrants in Latin America and worked to resolve border problems in the region.

The organization has also been active, through exchanges of experiences and technical assistance, in efforts to provide free legal aid to vulnerable groups. It has been involved in other initiatives in the areas of alternative dispute resolution, specialized training seminars and access to justice for prisoners and indigenous populations.